



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994.

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 S. Fitzhugh St.
Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Burns - Resch Farm
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 491 Island Cottage Road (S.W. corner of Janes Rd.)
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒ 364 Island Cottage Rd.
5. PRESENT OWNER: Edwin Resch ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14612
6. USE: Original: farm/residence Present: farm/residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain private residence/farm

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☒ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: _____
Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation = pargeted.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
b. wood frame with light members ☐
(if known) c. masonry load bearing walls ☒
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"The grouping of barn buildings is a nice composition. It's too bad they put the jalousies on the front porch of the house. It's a very nice, simple Greek Revival house. Again, together with the land and the barns, we have to put this up in the 'red' category." P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Red



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☐ b. zoning ☒ c. roads ☒
d. developers ☒ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: I-390 Expressway bisects the acreage of this farm.

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☒-2 b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☒-4 f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: deciduous & coniferous trees; orchard
j. other: Round Pond Creek to S. of house.

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☒
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: I-390 Expressway borders W. of barn complex

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1830s - 1852

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: agricultural: farm residence & outbuildings.

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11c.

Enclosed, shed-roofed front porch with contemporary railing and front stairs appears to be a 20th-century addition.

Present 1/1, double-hung window sash probably installed in late-19th or early-20th century (replacing original multi-pane sash).

One-story, rear (west) wing appears to be an addition (late 1800s-early 1900s); includes several contemporary windows.

17. The Burns-Resch Farm is located on a 78.6-acre lot on the southwest corner of Island Cottage and Janes Roads in the northeast quadrant of the town. Six agricultural buildings of various dates of construction are located to the northwest of the farmhouse. To the north of the house is a large orchard. Round Pond Creek is located to the south of the residence. To the west of the house and barns is the I-390 Expressway, which bisects this property. Immediately west of the expressway, there is additional acreage (orchard and open fields) that belongs to the farm. The Burns-Kirk-Newcomb Farm borders this farm to the west. There is scattered development of 19th- and 20th-century housing in the area. The Park Ridge Satellite Campus is located across the street (east) on Island Cottage Road.

18. One-and-one-half-story, side-gabled, brick farmhouse (c. 1830s-1852) with one-story, gable-roofed rear wing. The main block, with side gables, is four-bays wide by two-bays deep. The house stands on a pargeted foundation (probably fieldstone underneath). Fenestration is regular and symmetrical with 1/1, double-hung windows. Windows have brick lintels and narrow wood sills. A corbelled brick chimney (early 1900s?) tops the north gable.

Under the low-pitched, gable roof is a wide, Greek Revival style cornice with gable-end returns. The facade (east elevation) features a narrow brick watertable. Now enclosed with contemporary jalousie windows, the front entrance porch retains simple, square Doric columns.

The one-story rear (west) wing features a gabled roof, contemporary windows, and a brick chimney. It appears to date from the late-19th or early-20th century.

18. continued

In addition to the historic farmhouse, the property is distinguished for its fine collection of agricultural outbuildings, including:

Contributing gambrel-roofed barn (1910) northwest of the house. This, the largest barn, has its date of construction inscribed in a concrete slab there (per E. Resch). The barn is sided with narrow, vertical, wood boards. Two contemporary overhead garage doors are located in the east elevation (facade). Attached to the west elevation of this gambrel-roofed barn is the

Contributing gable-roofed barn (late 1800s-early 1900s) with one-story, shed-roofed north wing. Edwin Resch states that this originally houses 14 cows; then the north wing was added to house an additional 14 cows. Attached to the southwest corner of this barn is the ...

Contributing gable-roofed barn (late 1800s). This north-south barn is sided with narrow, vertical wood siding. A one-story, shed-roofed addition is attached to the south elevation. Edwin Resch states that this barn is the oldest barn on the site. A number of the structural beams are bark-covered posts. Part of this barn was used as a hay mow. The shed-roofed addition on the south elevation was used as a granary.

Contributing gable-roofed corn crib (early 1900s) northwest of the house. This structure is sided with narrow, horizontal wood boards attached with several inches of open space between each board for ventilation. The corn crib sits on masonry piers. Edwin Resch states that this building was originally two separate buildings that have been joined together.

Contributing gable-roofed milk house (early-20th century) northwest of the house. This small, one-story frame building sits between the large, gambrel-roofed barn and the corn crib. It is sided with narrow, vertical, wood boards and has several 4-pane windows. Edwin Resch says the well is located here and was used to help cool the milk stored in this building.

Contributing small, gable-roofed chicken coop (early 1900s) northwest of the house. To the south of the corn crib sits this building with narrow, vertical wood

18. continued

siding. It includes several six-pane windows.

Contributing gable-roofed outhouse (early 1900s)
northwest of the house. The outhouse is located at the southwest corner of the corn crib. It was moved to this site from another location.

20. The Burns-Resch Farm is architecturally significant in the town of Greece as an outstanding historic farm property with the original farmhouse (c. 1830s-1852), a number of agricultural outbuildings, and a portion of the original acreage intact. It is also historically significant for its association with the agricultural heritage of Greece. The property is important in that it has been in continuous use as a farm throughout its history. The property has had only three owners in its 140+-year history.

The side-gabled, rectangular-plan house is representative of the typical vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse built in Greece during the early- to mid-19th century. Its distinctive wide cornice and gable end returns are trademarks of this style. Because of the Greek Revival design of this house, it appears to have been erected sometime during the 1830s-1852, when this style was at its most prominent (the house first appears on the 1852 county map).

Greek Revival architecture was the dominant style of American domestic architecture during the interval from about 1830 to 1850, during which its popularity led it to be called the National Style. The largest surviving concentrations of Greek Revival houses are found today in those states with the largest population growth during the period from 1820 to 1860. New York State leads the list in having the largest number of surviving Greek Revival buildings.

A building appears on this site on the 1852 county map, which lists "W. Burns" as owner. The property is adjacent to the large parcel owned by Terry Burns to the west. Terry Burns, a pioneer settler in the town, constructed the Burns-Kirk-Newcomb residence at 400 Newcomb Rd. in 1835. According to Arthur Newcomb (a descendant of Terry Burns and owner of 400 Newcomb Rd.), both Terry Burns and W. Burns may have been related (cousins?); no documentation has been found to confirm this.

The 1872 county map shows this property as lot 35 with

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"W.Byrnes" as owner. Located on the west side of the road (un-named), the house is bordered by a creek to the south and "T. Byrns" (Terry Burns) farm to the west. Janes Road (un-named) borders the property to the north.

Owner, Edwin Resch states that he learned about William Byrnes many years ago. The story was related by then-owner Harold Byrns (no relation). William Byrnes was originally from England. He boarded a boat there and planned to come to the U.S. Instead, the boat went to South America, where he took up residence. Byrnes was a cabinetmaker by training and went into the carriage manufacturing business there. He became quite financially successful. Subsequently, he moved to the U.S., settling in the town of Greece, where he purchased this farm at 491 Island Cottage Road.

The 1902 county map shows this as a 100-acre property owned by "William Byrnes Heirs." The house and a large outbuilding (barn?) are shown. To the south is "Long Pond Creek" (mis-named) and the New York Central Railroad track (constructed in the late 1800s). The Burns' farm to the west is now owned by Fred Kirk.

The 1924 county map shows a brick house and adjacent frame outbuilding on this site. A small, frame building (tenant house?) is located at the southeast corner of the property, a 96.5-acre parcel owned by Harold Byrns. Owner Edwin Resch states that Harold Byrns bought this property "on the court house steps" (evidently it was auctioned) when he was 21-years-old (date not determined). Harold Byrns was not related to William Byrnes - it is only coincidence that they share a similar last name (different spelling).

In 1926, the family of Ambrose Resch moved into the house at #491. Resch worked for Harold Byrns. Resch's son, Edwin, was then two years old (born 1924). The 1930 suburban directory lists "Ambrose L. Resch, farmer" as the only resident on the west side of Island Cottage Road, north of the railroad tracks. According to Arthur Newcomb, Mr. Resch was a tenant farmer, who resided at #491 for many years, while the owner of #491 (Harold Byrns) resided across the street in the farmhouse at #364 Island Cottage Road. In later years another hired worker, John DeVelder, lived on the property, as well.

According to Edwin Resch, the rear (west) porch was added on

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to the house by Harold Byrns. Mr. Resch reports that the cooking was originally done in the basement of the house (it had a concrete floor) and there was a dumbwaiter to bring the food up to the first floor. The present kitchen was added onto the house after 1926.

The 1959 county map shows this site as a 96.5-acre parcel with the brick house and adjacent outbuildings. To the northwest of the residence is a complex of two large frame outbuildings, four small frame outbuildings and two silos. Harold A. Burns (sic) is listed as the owner.

Arthur Newcomb reports that the barns housed Mr. Byrns' herd of about 45 dairy cows, that he had into the 1970s. On several occasions, the cows broke down the fence between the Burns and Newcomb farms. They would wander over to the front yard at the Newcomb's house and have to be herded back to their original pasture. Edwin Resch reports that there were 45 milking cows, but the total number of the cows in the herd was higher. In 1969 the milking cows were sold; in 1974 the heifers were sold. This was the last time that there was livestock on the farm.

According to Arthur Newcomb, Mr. Burns took care of his mother and sister for many years, but never married. When Mr. Burns died July 6, 1976, his properties at #364 and #491 Island Cottage Road were willed to Edwin Resch, son of Ambrose Resch, the tenant farmer who lived with his family at #491 for many years. Mr. Resch now resides in the Byrns' house at 364 Island Cottage Road and rents out this farm property at #491.

This farm has had an orchard for many years. The great freeze of 1934 took out most of the earlier trees. Edwin Resch reports that subsequently, the W.P.A. instituted a program to clear the orchards of the destroyed trees. They paid a worker \$15 a week - for that the worker had to cut up the orchard trees, but also got to keep as much of the wood as he could haul away (most of the wood was used as firewood).

With the exception of a few trees that were too young to be harmed by the freeze of 1934, most of the orchard that survives today was planted in 1936-37. The orchard is maintained by owner, Bud (Edwin) Resch. However, it is bisected by the expressway. This apple orchard contains

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varieties such as 20-ounce, Greening, McIntosh, Baldwin, Red Rome, Cortland, and Mutsu. The apples are sold to food processors.

The survival of the historic agricultural buildings greatly contributes to the integrity of the setting. The collection of agricultural outbuildings (barns, sheds, etc.) here at #491 Island Cottage Road is one of the most important and picturesque farm complex in the town of Greece.

Agricultural structures are quickly vanishing from the town's landscape, victims of new development, deterioration, abandonment, or fire. Those agricultural complexes which have survived and are still in agricultural use, such as the Burns-Resch Farm, are rare and thus highly significant historic resources. The farmhouse and the agricultural support structures are important visual reminders of the town's agricultural heritage.

21. See final report for bibliography; interview and site visit with Arthur Newcomb, 11/1994; phone interview with Edwin Resch, 4/1995.





